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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/729,293
Filing Date: December 05, 2003
Appellant(s): HARPER, RAYMOND

Charles W. Griggers
Reg. 47,283
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 4/29/2008 appealing from the Office action mailed 10/30/2007.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The following are the related appeals, interferences, and judicial proceedings known to the examiner which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

No amendment after final has been filed.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| 5,793,952 | Limsico | 8-1998 |
| 5,105,438 | Ackroff | 4-1992 |
| 5,606,663 | Kadooka | 2-1997 |

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-10 and 12-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limsico (U.S. Patent # 5,793,952) in view of Ackroff (U.S. Patent # 5,105,438) in further view of Kadooka (U.S. Patent # 5,606,663). The Limsico (U.S. Patent # 5,793,952) reference with respect to claim 1 teaches a password management system, comprising a graphical user interface logic residing on a first computer system (see figure 3 element 310) operable to receive a current password from a user, prompt the user to determine whether the user desires to change the current password, and responsive to the user response receive a new password (see figure 3 and column 3 line 42-54). Password confirmation logic residing on a first computer system operable to confirm the current password associated with the user on a remote computer system residing on a second computer system (see figure 3 element 350) remote from the first computer system (see figure 3); password administration logic residing on a first computer system, responsive to the password confirmation logic and the graphical user interface, operable to receive the new password and to change the current password on the remote computer system (see figure 2 and column 4 line 57 – column 5 line 54). The Limsico reference does not teach that the remote computer system is a switched access remote test system (SARTS) and expiration logic residing on a first computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer

system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration. The Ackroff reference teaches that the remote computer system is a switched access remote test system (see column 3 line 18-29). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have made the remote computer system taught by Limsico to be a switched access remote test system as discussed by Ackroff. SARTS provides a data base of circuit configurations and other key information, and in combination with a human interface for accessing circuits, issues test commands and receives measurements. The test equipment is not local to the circuit that is in trouble as it is more economical to make the test from a remotely centralized location (see column 1 lines 44-50). Therefore one would have been motivated to include a switched access remote test system on a password manager that is operable to change the current password at determined time or when the user request a change of password to keep the Switched access remote test system secure and only qualified user access to the switched access remote test system. The Kadooka reference teaches expiration logic residing on a second computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system remote from the first computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration (see figure 4a). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the

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art to which said subject matter pertains to make it possible to set the available period on the system side for each password according to the access frequency of the user whom the password identifies, prescribe a password updating period for a certain length of time immediately preceding the expiration of the available period, inform the user who logs in the system during the updating period that the expiration of his password is imminent by displaying a message requesting him to change his password, and thereby urge him to update his password. Therefore one would be motivated to warn the user and set different length updating periods so a user who seldom accesses the system does not become unable to log in the system because his password has run out of its available period even if he never accessed the system during that period (see Kadooka column 1 lines 38-58).

With respect to claim 2, the password confirmation logic is operable to send the current password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) and receive a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff also see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65).

With respect to claim 3, the password confirmation logic is operable to compare the response with a plurality of expected responses and determine whether the current password provided by the user is valid (see Limsico column 6 lines 5-28).

With respect to claim 4, the response is an alphanumeric string, and the plurality of expected responses comprises erroneous responses and successful responses (see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 7 line 16).

With respect to claim 5, the password confirmation logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password confirmation logic determining that the current password provided by the user is not valid (see Limsico figure 5B elements 5160, 5190, and 5310 “Display Error Message” and column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 54).

With respect to claim 6, the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a request to change the password from the graphical user interface (see Limsico column 5 line 43-54).

With respect to claim 7, the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a confirmation of the password from the password confirmation logic (see Limsico figure 5C element 5250 “Display Verify Password GUI” and column 6 lines 18-39).

With respect to claim 8, the password administration logic is operable to send the current password and the new password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) and receive a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff), and compare the response to a plurality of expected responses (see Limsico column 5 lines 43 and column 7 lines 16).

With respect to claim 9, the password administration logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password administration logic determining that the new password provided by the user was not accepted by the switched access remote test system (see

Limsico figure 5 elements 5160, 5190, and 5310 “Display Error Message” and column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 54).

With respect to claim 10, the Limsico reference further comprises a password file operable to store a set of data comprising the expiration date of the current password; wherein the expiration logic is operable to read the password file and request that the graphical user interface notify the user that the current password is nearing expiration responsive to the expiration date (see Limsico column 9 line 5-40).

With respect to claim 12 and 21, the Limsico reference teaches, a method of managing passwords, comprising the steps of providing a user with a graphical user interface residing on a first computer system (see figure 3 element 310). Receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user interface for a remote computer system residing on a second computer system (see figure 3 element 350) remote from the first computer system. Prompting the user on whether to change the current password, receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user response to the prompting (see figure 3 and column 3 lines 41-54 and column 4 line 57 – column 5 line 2). Confirming the current password with the remote computer system and requesting that the remote computer system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting (see column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65). The Limsico reference does not teach that the remote computer system is a switched access remote test system and determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system. The Ackroff reference teaches that the remote

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computer system is a switched access remote test system (see column 3 line 18-29). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have made the remote computer system taught by Limsico to be a switched access remote test system as discussed by Ackroff. SARTS provides a data base of circuit configurations and other key information, and in combination with a human interface for accessing circuits, issues test commands and receives measurements. The test equipment is not local to the circuit that is in trouble as it is more economical to make the test from a remotely centralized location (see column 1 lines 44-50). Therefore one would be motivated to include a switched access remote test system on a password manager that is operable to change the current password at determined time or when the user request a change of password to keep the Switched access remote test system secure and only qualified user access to the switched access remote test system. The Kadooka reference teaches determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system (see figure 4a). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to make it possible to set the available period on the system side for each password according to the access frequency of the user whom the password identifies, prescribe a password updating period for a certain length of time immediately preceding the expiration of the available period, inform the user who logs in the system during the updating period that the expiration of his password is imminent by displaying

a message requesting him to change his password, and thereby urge him to update his password. Therefore one would be motivated to warn the user and set different length updating periods so a user who seldom accesses the system does not become unable to log in the system because his password has run out of its available period even if he never accessed the system during that period (see Kadooka column 1 lines 38-58).

With respect to claims 13 and 22, the confirming the current password further comprises sending the current password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) and receiving a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff also see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65 and column 7 line 46 – column 9 line 15).

With respect to claims 14 and 23, the confirming the current password further comprises comparing the response from the switched access remote test system with a plurality of expected responses (see Limsico column 5 lines 43 - column 7 lines 16).

With respect to claims 15 and 24, the confirming the current password further comprises notifying the user of an error responsive to comparing the response from the switched access remote test system (see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65 i.e. an error message is displayed at step 5310).

With respect to claims 16 and 25, the requesting that the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises sending the new password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) along

with the current password (see Limsico column 4 line 57 – column 5 line 12 and column 8 line 58-63).

With respect to claims 17 and 26, the requesting that the switched access remote test (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises receiving a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) after sending the new password (see Limsico column and column 11 lines 6-10).

With respect to claims 18 and 27, further comprising the step of comparing the received response with a plurality of expected responses (see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 7 line 16).

With respect to claims 19 and 28, further comprising the step of providing an error message to the user responsive to the comparing the received response (see Limsico figure 5 elements 5160, 5190, and 5310 “Display Error Message” and column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 54).

With respect to claims 20 and 29, further comprising the steps of reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with the current password and prompting the user to change the password responsive to determination of the expiration date (see Limsico column 9 lines 5-40).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limsico (U.S. Patent # 5,793,952) in view of Ackroff (U.S. Patent # 5,105,438) in view of Kadooka (U.S. Patent # 5,606,663) in further view of Goldberg et al (U.S. Patent #

5,748,890). Limsico in view of Ackroff teaches everything with respect to claim 1 above but with respect to claim 11 the Limsico in view of Achroff does not teaches a password management system is operable to interact with at least two switched access remote testing systems through a second graphical user interface that forms a wrapper for said at least two switched access remote testing system. Goldberg teaches a password management system is operable to interact with at least two switched access remote testing systems (i.e remote machine as taught by Limsico in view of Ackroff) through a second graphical user interface that forms a wrapper for said at least two switched access remote testing system (i.e remote machine as taught by Limsico in view of Ackroff, also see Goldberg column 1 lines 26-67). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have modified a remote password management system that would be able to interact with at least two host. Therefore one would have been motivated to design a password management system that could be use interact with at least two host to make it easier and more secure then having one password for each host. Trying to remember different passwords for each host is very time consuming, expensive, and ineffective from an accountably standpoint. Have one system would have made it a lot easier than having books with host applications and corresponding passwords (see column 1 lines 13-55).

(10) Response to Argument

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Applicants arguments with respect to “expiration logic residing on a second computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system remote from the first computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration” have been considered but are not persuasive. Limsico in view of Kadooka clearly teaches “expiration logic residing on a first computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration”. Limsico teaches a local machine (i.e. first computer) with a password GUI operable to change a user's password on a remote computer system (i.e. second computer). Kadooka teaches to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system (Limsico's remote machine) and is operable to cause the user

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to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration (see figure 4a). It is clearly shown that determine if the current password is approaching its expiration (steps 4-2 – 4-6) is prior to logging on (step 4-9). The combination of Limsico in view of Kadooka teaches the whole claim of “expiration logic residing on a second computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system remote from the first computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration”.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

/Devin Almeida/
Examiner, Art Unit 2132

/Gilberto Barron Jr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2132

Conferees:

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